

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 01337 181758Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7495

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 01337

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, CY

SUBJ: CYPRUS IN UNSC: MESSAGE TO BITSIOS

REF: SECTO 226

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO THE SECRETARY

1. I DELIVERED YOUR MESSAGE (REFTEL) TO FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS WHO WAS VERY HAPPY TO LEARN THAT BUFFUM WOULD BE GOING TO NEW YORK FOR THE UNSC ON CYPRUS. BITSIOS SAID TO THANK YOU AND TO TELL YOU THAT HE RECIPROCATED COMPLETELY YOUR WISH TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH DURING THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AHEAD.

2. I ENQUIRED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT BITSIOS MIGHT GO TO NEW YORK HIMSELF AND SAID THAT IF HE DID IT WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO MEET. BITSIOS SAID HIS WISH TO MEET WITH YOU AGAIN WAS "VERY STRONG" BUT THAT IT WAS VERY DOUBTFUL HE WOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO NEW YORK. IN THE FIRST PLACE HE HAS TO BE HERE TOMORROW FOR THE WALDHEIM VISIT AND COULD NOT LEAVE FOR NEW YORK UNTIL THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, AT THE EARLIEST. THEN HE WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO ATHENS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, FOR THE OFFICIAL VISIT BEGINNING THE NEXT DAY OF FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVANGARGUES. BITSIOS SAID HE MUST NOT TRY AND POSTPONE SAUVANGARGUES' VISIT, THAT AFTER HIS OWN CANCELLATION OF HIS VISITS TO BONN AND ROME THESE PAST FEW DAYS, HE WOULD ACQUIRE A REALLY BAD REPUTATION.

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TION. BITSIOS SAID HE PLANNED TO DISCUSS THE UNSC MEETING

WITH CARAMANLIS TONIGHT AND IF BY ANY CHANCE HE COULD WORK
OUT A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER THIS WEEK IN THE US, HE WOULD
LET ME KNOW AT ONCE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE POINT IN YOUR MESSAGE THAT THE SC
DEBATE NOT FURTHER EXACERBATE THE SITUATION, BITSIOS SAID
HE WAS NOT VERY MUCH WORRIED. HE SAID THAT AS YOU MUST
KNOW FROM YOUR EARLIER COMMUNICATIONS, HE DOES NOT
ATTACH VERY MUCH IMPORTANCE TO DEBATES IN THE UN ON
CYPRUS.

4. HE ASKED IF YOUR MESSAGE TO HIM CONTAINED ANYTHING
ABOUT YOUR DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS WITH GROMYKO IN GENEVA,
AND I SAID THAT IT DID NOT. HE SAID HE HAD SEEN ONLY
PRESS REPORTS ABOUT YOUR MEETING WITH GROMYKO AND TO
GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM AT ONCE IF YOU HAD ANY SPECIAL
WORD TO SAY TO HIM ON THAT SUBJECT.
KUBISCH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO THE SECRETARY

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